

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

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an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing said absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein said ~~drip absorption mat~~ porous surface sheet is configured to prevent color deterioration on a side of the food adjoining said porous surface sheet by ~~augmenting~~
15 adding to the breathability of said absorption sheet in both the horizontal and thickness directions.

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2. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 1;

wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in
20 the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

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3. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 1;

wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the
25 mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

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4. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein the drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance, in the thickness direction, that does not exceed 1.00 Kpa·s/m.

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5. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;
wherein a ventilation resistance value of said porous surface sheet in the thickness
direction does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m.

5 6. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;
wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in
the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

10 7. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured
with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 4;
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the
mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

15 8. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;
wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value
in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test
methodology, comprising:

laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip
absorption mat stack;

20 excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of
layering; and

aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal
direction.

25 9. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 8;
wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in
the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

30 10. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured
with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 8;
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the
mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

11. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

5 a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein said porous surface sheet comprises a film having a plurality of protrusions, each protrusion having a convex side and a concave side;

wherein a hollow cavity is formed adjacent the protrusion on the convex side; and

10 wherein a pore is provided at the bottom of said concave side such that the protrusion forms a minute aperture.

12. (previously presented) A drip-absorption mat according to Claim 11;

15 wherein a terminal portion of said porous surface sheet is in contact with the , and is notched so as to facilitate air flow between the hollow cavity and the aperture.

13. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;

wherein said minute aperture is tapered with an opening of larger diameter on a side configured to adjoin the food.

20 14. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;

wherein said absorption sheet and said porous surface sheet are adhered to each other in a manner that does not clog said minute aperture.

25 15. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 14;

wherein the absorption and porous surface sheets are glued either at dots or in a line.

16. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 15;

30 wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

17. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
wherein ~~said protrusions comprise not more than 30% of the total area of said~~
surface sheet said surface sheet defines a space occupied as a whole, said film occupying
not more than 30% of the space occupied as a whole.

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18. (original) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
wherein the number of said apertures is not below 20 per 1 cm².

19. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;
wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value
in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test
methodology, comprising:

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laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip
absorption mat stack;

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excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of
layering; and

aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal
direction.

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20. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured
with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 11;

wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the
mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

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21. (previously presented) An absorption mat for receiving food item oozing
liquid, comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb liquid; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing
the absorption sheet and a second side for adjoining the food item, the first side defining a
cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet;

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wherein the surface sheet is configured to support the food item while maintaining
the cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet; and

wherein the surface sheet defines pores that allow liquid from the food item to flow
through to the absorption sheet.